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Message Text

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21
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01

INR-05 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00 SAB-01 SAM-01

NIC-01 MC-01 ACDA-05 /076 R

DRAFTED BY EUR/WE:HGMOEN:JKB
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PM/SAS -RSMITH
NEA/AFN:DJAMESON
L/PM:JMICHEL
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R R 082101Z NOV 74
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ROME
INFO AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 246858

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MILI, PFOR, IT, LY
SUBJ: ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA

REF: ROME 17231; ROME 12493; STATE 33484

1. SALIMEI, COUNSELOR OF ITALIAN EMBASSY, CAME INTO DEPT AT HIS REQUEST ON NOVEMBER 5. AFTER EXPORESSING ITALIAN APPRECIATION FOR US SUPPROT FOR ITALIAN BID FOR SEAT ON ICAO BOARD, HE RAISED THE QUESTION OF ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA, SPECIFICALLY APC'S AND HELICOPTERS. SALIMEI NOTED THAT THE ITALIAN FOREIGN MINISTRY HAD RAISED AGAIN IN SEPTEMBER THE APC ISSUE WITH AMEMBASSY ROME, AND HE EMPHASIZED CONTINUING ITALIAN INTERST IN THE HELICOPTER QUESTION.

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2. DEPTOFF INFORMED SALIMEI THAT THE USG'S NEGATIVE POS-

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ITION ON THE TRANSFER OF THE APC'S TO LIBYA REMAINED UNCHANGED. HE REMINDED SALIMEI THAT AMONG THE PRINCIPAL OBSTACLES TO THE THIRD-PARTY TRANSFER OF APC'S WAS THE STIPULATION OF US LAW THAT WE CANNOT APPROVE SUCH TRANSFERS UNLESS THE USG ITSELF WOULD TRANSFER THE ITEMS CONCERNED. AS FOR THE HELICOPTERS, DEPTOFF TOLD SALIMEI THAT FOR THE TIME BEING NO DECISION IS BEING MADE.

3. FYI FOR TRIPOLI: TO THE BEST OF OUR KNOWLEDGE, NEITHER PRESIDENT LEONE NOR FONMIN MORO RAISED THE QUESTION OF ITALIAN MILITARY SALES TO LIBYA DURING THEIR VISIT HERE IN LATE SEPTEMBER (TRIOPOLI 1181).

4. FOR ROME: IN RESPONDING TO POSSIBLE FURTHER ITALIAN QUERIES, ON THIS SUBJECT IN ROME, EMBASSY MAY WISH TO DRAW ON STATE 33484. MAW

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